NUMB. XXXVIII.

The GUARDIAN.

——*Prodire tenus ſi non datur Ultrà.* Hor.

Friday, April 24. 1713.

I Have lately given a *Precaution* concerning the Difficulty in arriving at what ought to be eſteemed a *fine Gentleman*. That Character has been long wholly engroſſed by well-dreſt Beaus, and Men of Senſe have given up all Pretence to it. The higheſt any of them contend for is the Character of a *pretty Gentleman*; for here the Dreſs may be more careleſs, and ſome Wit is thought neceſſary, whereas a *fine Gentleman* is not obliged to converſe further than the offering his Snuff-box round the Room. However, the *pretty Gentleman* muſt have his Airs, and tho' they are not ſo pompous as thoſe of the other, yet they are ſo affected, that few who have Underſtanding can bring themſelves to be Proficients this way, though ever ſo uſeful towards being well received; but if they fail here, they ſucceed with ſome difficulty in being allowed to have *much of the Gentleman* in them: To obtain this Epither, a Man of Senſe muſt arrive at a certain delite, to appear more than is natural to him; but as the World goes, it is fit he ſhould be encouraged in this Attempt, ſince nothing can mend the general Taſte, but ſetting the true Character in as publick a View as the falſe. This indeed can never be done to the purpoſe, while the Majority is ſo great on the wrong ſide; one of a hundred will have the Shout againſt him; but if People of Wit would be as zealous to aſſiſt old *Ironſide*, as he is to promote them and their Intereſt, a little time would give theſe things a new Turn. However, I will not deſpair but I ſhall be able to ſummon all the good Senſe in the Nation to my Aſſiſtance, in my Ambition to produce a new Race of Mankind, to take the Places of ſuch as have hitherto pretended to engroſs the Faſhion. The Univerſity Scholar ſhall be called upon to learn his Exerciſe, and frequent mixt Company; the Military and the Travelled Man, to read the beſt Authors; the Country Gentleman, to divide his Time, ſo as, together with the care of his Eſtate, to make an equal Progreſs in Learning and Breeding; and when the ſeveral Candidates think themſelves prepared, I ſhall appoint Under Officers to examine their Qualifications, and as I am ſatisfied with their Report, give out my Paſports recommending them to all Companies as *the Guardian's fine Gentlemen*. If my Recommendations appear juſt, I will not doubt but ſome of the preſent *fine Gentlemen* will ſee the Neceſſity of Retirement, till they can come abroad with Approbation. I have indeed already given out Orders in his behalf, and have directed Searchers to attend at the Inns, where the *Oxford* and *Cambridge* Coaches ſtand, and commanded them to bring any young Fellow, of any Hopes in the World, directly to my Lodgings as ſoon as he Lands, for I will take him tho' I know I can only make him *much of a Gentleman*; for when I have gone thus far one would think it ſhould be eaſie to make him a *Gentleman-like Man*. As the World now goes, we have no adequate Idea of what is meant by *Gentlemanly*, *Gentleman-like*, or *much of a Gentleman*; you can't be cheated at Play, but it is certainly done by *a very Gentleman-like Man*; you can't be deceiv'd in your Affairs, but it was done in ſome *Gentlemanly Manner*; you can't be wronged in your Bed, but all the World will ſay of

(Price Two Pence.)